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THE YEAR OF:
Charlotte Maseke
MAXEKE
THE MEANING OF FREEDOM
UNDER COVID-19

#FreedomMonth2021
#2021YearOfCharlotteMaseke

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PRESIDENT CONDEMNS VIOLENCE THAT LED TO DEATH OF PRESIDENT DÉBY OF CHAD



President Cyril Ramaphosa has received with sadness the disturbing news of the death of His Excellency Marshal Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad.

The Chadian President passed away on Tuesday, 20 April 2021, following injuries he sustained while leading his military forces to repel a rebel attack.

President Ramaphosa has, on behalf of the Government and people of South Africa, extended his deepest condolences to the fallen President's family as well as the Government and people of Chad.

President Ramaphosa has furthermore expressed the concern of the South African Government at developments in the Republic of Chad involving armed groups.

President Ramaphosa says an immediate cessation of violence is necessary to bring peace and stability to the Republic of Chad as part of ending conflict on the continent.

"We condemn in the strongest terms the violence that has claimed so many lives, including that of President Déby. We call for calm and a cessation of fighting."

DURBAN PORT TO RECLAIM ITS PLACE AS THE BEST-PERFORMING PORT IN AFRICA

President Cyril Ramaphosa says through both operational improvements and structural reforms, the Durban Port will reclaim its place as the best-performing port in Africa.

"As part of our Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, we will continue to work tirelessly to expand infrastructure investment and transform our network industries," President Ramaphosa said after his recent visit to the Durban Port.

In his weekly newsletter, President Ramaphosa says if the port does not function efficiently, the entire economy suffers, from importers and exporters to consumers.

“On the other hand, if the port works well, it can drive economic growth and position our country as a gateway to the region and the continent,” he said.

When he visited Durban in October 2019, many local businesses and port users raised concerns about the performance of the Durban Port.

“Shipping companies in particular expressed concern about truck congestion and waiting times, ship berthing delays and anchorage times, poor maintenance of equipment and generally low productivity in the port,” the President said.

There has been great progress over the past year in turning around the performance of the port despite the impact of COVID-19.

“These efforts are already showing results in improved maintenance of equipment, reduced congestion, quicker turnaround times and increased use of rail instead of road transport.

“Truck turnaround times have greatly improved. Similarly, the reliability of cargo handling equipment has improved to 80%, and is heading towards at least 95% to meet international benchmarks. Ship waiting times have reduced to impressive levels.

“While this is important progress, there is still much work to be done to position Durban as a world-class port and as a hub port for the Southern Hemisphere,” President Ramaphosa said.

A multi-party work team has been established, together with port users, to address key issues related to port performance. While this progress is a reflection of the hard work that is being done to reposition the port, there is still much work remaining to ensure the port system serves the needs of the economy and promotes growth.

The new management of Transnet and its operating divisions are focussed on improving operational performance, increasing investment in port and rail infrastructure and ensuring adequate maintenance of equipment.

The Department of Public Enterprises and the Department of Transport, with support from Operation Vulindlela, are working to implement structural reforms that will modernise and increase investment in the transport sector. – Source: SAnews.gov.za



SA CONCERNED BY INCIDENT AT IRAN'S NATANZ NUCLEAR FACILITY

The South African Government says it has noted with concern the incident at the Natanz nuclear facility in Iran recently and the external factors that may have caused it.

The BBC quoted one of Iran's top nuclear officials as saying a nuclear facility in Iran was hit by "sabotage" a day after it unveiled new uranium enrichment equipment, which caused a power failure at the Natanz complex, south of Tehran, on 11 April 2021.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) said South Africa noted that this incident occurred as the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, was meeting in Vienna.

JCPOA is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the agreement.

“As negotiations on the JCPOA continue this week in Vienna, South Africa hopes that the discussions will focus on the full and effective implementation of the agreement and not be



overshadowed by any implications and consequences of the recent incident at the Natanz nuclear facility.

“It is crucial for all parties to continue the momentum created during the JCPOA discussions last week in Vienna, in pursuit of positive steps towards a multilateral diplomatic outcome,” said DIRCO.

According to the Council on Foreign Relations, the Iran nuclear agreement is a landmark accord reached between Iran and several world powers, including the United States, in July 2015.

Under its terms, Iran agreed to dismantle much of its nuclear programme and open its facilities to more extensive international inspections in exchange for billions of dollars’ worth of sanctions relief. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

CUBAN WATER EXPERTS TO SHARE EXPERIENCE AND IMPART TECHNICAL SKILLS TO SOUTH AFRICAN WATER ENGINEERS

On Thursday, 22 April 2021, a hybrid welcome ceremony was held for 24 Cuban engineers who have been seconded to South Africa to enhance and improve government’s efforts on water delivery and related services.



The ceremony was led by the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu, together with South Africa’s Ambassador to Cuba, Thaninga Shope-Linney, Ambassador Rodolfo Benítez Verson as well as President of Cuba Hydraulic Institute, Antonio Rodriguez-Rodriguez.

The highly qualified Cuban specialists will assist as advisers at provincial and local levels across the country, sharing their vast skills in the areas of mechanical, electrical and civil engineering, as well as project management.

Some of the engineers’ core responsibilities include the practical exploration of sustainable use of water resources, maintenance and management of water supply and sanitation infrastructure, and the strategic planning of those resources, particularly in rural and other disadvantaged communities.

BOTSHABELO INDUSTRIAL PARK ATTRACTS OVER R500 MILLION IN INVESTMENTS

The revamping of the Botshabelo Industrial Park in the Free State has attracted investments of over R500 million and created more than 5 000 direct job opportunities.

The upgrading of the park is part of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition’s Revitalisation of Industrial Parks Programme, which is being rolled out throughout the country to renovate state-owned industrial parks located in historically disadvantaged areas.

The objectives of the revitalisation programme include promoting industrialisation, attracting investments, increasing the occupancy rate of the parks, driving retention and expansion and addressing inequality.

National Council of Provinces Chief Whip, Seiso Mohai, who visited the park recently, said he was delighted to see that the Botshabelo Industrial Park would attract more investors through its revitalisation programme.



Mohai, accompanied by National Assembly Deputy Speaker, Lechesa Tsenoli, and Free State Provincial Whip, Itumeleng Ntsube, was on an oversight visit to the industrial park to monitor and evaluate progress and its impact in the revitalisation of the township economy in the Free State.

During the visit, the delegation was briefed by various stakeholders, including Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic) Deputy Minister, Nomalungelo Gina, and Manguang Metropolitan Municipality Chief Whip, Zolile Mangcotywa, on the progress made and the crucial role the park has in advancing the country's economy.

Mohai heard that 108 of 144 factories in the park are currently occupied and fully operational, increasing the park's occupancy rate to more than 76.5%.

"The revitalisation of the township economy and projects in place have changed the image of Botshabelo Industrial Park and the perception many business people had about it. According to the presentations made to us, clearly more investors are in the pipeline," said Mohai.

The delegation expressed their excitement that the park's state-of-the-art digital hub is fully operational.

The hub has received R5 million in funding from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda), an agency of the Department of Small Business Development.

The delegation also heard that Seda is currently hosting activations and boot camps in Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo and other areas surrounding Bloemfontein, to create awareness about the digital hub, and to identify young people who will receive training at the hub, as part of developing entrepreneurs in innovation to equip them for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

R760 million invested in industrial parks

The department has invested R760 million in industrial parks across the country through the revitalisation programme since its inception in 2015.

The revitalisation programme is implemented in phases, with the first phase focussing on upgrading the security features. Phase one of the Botshabelo Industrial Park was approved for funding of R24 million, and was the first industrial park to reach completion. The second phase was approved for almost R50 million. – Source: SAnews.gov.za

REGISTRATION FOR COVID-19 VACCINE NOW OPEN FOR THOSE OVER 60

Government has officially launched the COVID-19 vaccine online registration for the public as the Department of Health gears up for phase two of the country's vaccine roll-out.

Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS)

People who are 60 years and older can register on the COVID-19 electronic vaccination data system (EVDS)

vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za

According to Health Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize, the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) is now available to the general public and all citizens aged 60 years and above are invited to register for vaccination.

"This launch marks a significant milestone not only for our vaccination campaign but for South Africa's advancement towards Universal Health Coverage," he said on Friday, 16 April 2021.

The Minister said this was the first time in democratic history that a major public health campaign would be supported by one digital system for all South Africans.

"The President, myself, hundreds of thousands of healthcare workers and now you, the citizens of South Africa, have or will have access the vaccines through the same process, by using this system."

Minister Mkhize explained that there would be no distinction between private and state healthcare users, except that private healthcare users would need to share their medical aid details.

"The quality of services will be the same for all of us and the system will assign a vaccination site closest to our homes or where we work and not based on whether a particular site is a public or private facility."

He said citizens must have their ID and medical aid card and ensure they put in the correct cellphone number and residential address where they live.

However, the registration does not guarantee that you will be vaccinated immediately.

"We will use the information you provide when you register to communicate with you about the vaccination programme when necessary." – Source: SAnews.gov.za

FOLLOW IN MAXEKE'S FOOTSTEPS THIS FREEDOM MONTH

Struggle stalwart Charlotte Maxeke has, this Freedom Month, been remembered as a strong and a selfless woman.



#FreedomMonth2021
#2021YearOfCharlotteMaxeke

On Wednesday, 21 April 2021, ahead of the annual Freedom Day commemoration, a virtual panel discussion was organised by the Government Communication and Information System to mark the life and times of Maxeke as a freedom fighter.

The panelists described Maxeke as a woman who was always determined to work for others.

Dr Musawenkosi Donia Saurombe, from the Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke Institute (CMMI), said Maxeke had made an enormous contribution to the improvement of people's lives, particularly women.

Maxeke was selfless. "Charlotte continued to be a selfless character. She was a pioneer."

Saurombe said it was important for women to follow in Maxeke's footsteps and emulate her determination to challenge the status quo.

The CMMI is a family initiative born out of the desire to preserve, promote, elevate and leverage the legacy left behind by Mme Charlotte.

Maxeke was a South African religious leader, social and political activist; she was the first black woman to graduate with a university degree in South Africa with a BSc from Wilberforce University Ohio in 1903, as well as the first black African woman to graduate from an American university.

Born on 7 April 1871, she was the only woman who attended the launch of the South African Native National Congress in Bloemfontein in 1912.

She witnessed the 1878 – 1879 last Frontier war, the battle of Isandlwana in 1879, the battle of Adwa in Ethiopia 1896, the Pan-African Congress and the Bhambatha Rebellion of 1906.

She and other selfless women of her generation fought against oppression at a time when such defiance was met with unrelenting force.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of struggle icon and Freedom Month is being celebrated under the theme "The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: The Meaning of Freedom under COVID-19".

Government has called on everyone to use the Freedom Month and Freedom Day celebrations to pull together and continue to fight COVID-19 while striving for greater inclusion and social cohesion.

As government has declared 2021 the year to remember Maxeke, Dr Saurombe said the CMMI had planned a number of programmes and activities to commemorate the life and times of the struggle icon.

Zubeida Jaffer, an award-winning South African journalist and activist, is the author of *Beauty of the Heart: The Life and Times of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke*. She wrote the book over a period of three years.

"I believe more could be written about Charlotte. There are many big moments that people can read about her," Jaffer said.
– Source: SAnews.gov.za

CAPE TOWN'S NEW ICON

A new addition has been added to Cape Town's iconic skyline. Hotel Sky Cape Town is now open at one of the City Bowl's best addresses, directly across the road from the Cape Town International Conference Centre.

With 535 beautifully designed rooms and suites, Hotel Sky Cape Town is the ideal destination for both local and international business and leisure travellers, as well as day guests seeking a delicious meal or a sundowner with a view from the Infinity Restaurant on the 26th floor.



Speaking at the launch on 15 April 2021, the Minister of Tourism, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, said that: “Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Paul Kelley and his team at Hotel Sky for this investment here in the City Centre in the heart of the City Bowl. This is a good addition to exciting portfolio of smart and futuristic hotels.

This infrastructure investment is an important contribution to the strengthening of the supply side of the tourism market. More broadly, the country’s Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan is anchored on infrastructure investment and development.”

“We need to ensure the supply side of the market responds to this drive to increase the proportion of domestic travellers in the overall traveller population by investing in infrastructure and ensuring that South Africans can afford the prices. Thus, I was pleased to hear that one of the primary goals of Hotel Sky is to build hotels in central locations, and then offer leisure and business travellers an unsurpassed experience at affordable prices.

“This investment is in line with the Tourism Recovery Plan that the Department of Tourism has developed in collaboration with the private sector and other tourism stakeholders. The plan is a blueprint that will help the tourism sector navigate the pandemic and ultimately embark on a growth trajectory in the post-pandemic period.”

CAMPS BAY BEACH EARNS TOP 25 “WORLD’S BEST” FROM TRAVEL + LEISURE

“Travel + Leisure” is one of the world’s most influential travel publications, and each year, they publish their must-visit places; this year, Camps Bay gets a nod.

From the white sandy beaches of Greece and Florida to the rolling waves of every tropical island under the sun, you imagine a perfect beach, and it’s probably on the *Travel + Leisure* list of most beautiful beaches in the world.

The world-renowned publication recently shared its “25 Most Beautiful Beaches in the World” and South Africa’s Camps Bay was included among the greats. The travel acknowledgement is a great source of pride for South Africa.

The country’s beaches are some of the best globally, and many have Blue Flag status, including Camps Bay. The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa aims to help South Africa reach 100 Blue Flag beaches by 2030. There are currently 48 Blue Flag beaches in the country.



Travel + Leisure added Camps Bay Beach to their list alongside Elafonissi Beach, Crete, Greece, Nungwi Beach, Tanzania, Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Matira Beach, Bora Bora, French Polynesia, to name just a few.

This is what they had to say about Camps Bay.

“Truly beautiful beaches tend to be remote-island destinations far from urban buzz. A big exception is Camps Bay Beach, right in vibrant Cape Town. Backed by iconic Table Mountain, the beach offers a huge expanse of feathery sand and beautiful blue water. There’s plenty on tap in the Mother City beyond sun and surf: exploring the cobbled streets and colourful facades in the Bo-Kaap neighbourhood, hiking or riding the aerial cableway to the top of Cape Town’s famous flat-topped mountain, and braving Chapman’s Peak, the hair-raising ocean drive through rocky cliffs tumbling into the South Atlantic. Safaris, famous vineyards, whale-watching, and shark-diving all make easy day trips.” – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

THULI MADONSELA AWARDED HIGHEST FRENCH ORDER OF ADVANTAGE, CREATOR DEON MEYER ADDITIONALLY HONOURED

Former Public Protector, Thuli Madonsela, has been awarded the highest French honour, the Knight of the Legion of Honour.



The award was bestowed on her for her “remarkable fight against corruption”. The honour, established in 1802, has only been awarded to a few foreign nationals.

The Legion of Honour is the highest French order of merit, both military and civil, and it was established in 1802. The order is conferred to entrepreneurs, high-level civil servants, scientists, artists and sports champions. While membership in the legion is technically restricted to French nationals, foreign nationals who have served France or the ideals it upholds may receive the honour.

Madonsela is a multiple award-winning legal professional who has more than 50 national and global awards, as well as eight honorary Doctor of Law degrees.

“The Knight of Legion is bestowed upon Thuli Madonsela in recognition for her remarkable achievements in defence of the rule of law and the fight against corruption in South Africa,” the French Embassy said in a statement.

Madonsela was not the only South African honoured by the French Presidency.

South African crime fiction author and screenwriter, Deon Meyer, was handed the *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres* (Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters).

Meyer has published 15 novels and three short story collections, and his work has been translated into 27 languages and published in more than 40 countries. Meyer has received several international awards for his books, the *French Le Grand Prix de Littérature Policière* (2003) and *Le Prix Mystère de la critique* (2004).

“Deon Meyer is a great friend of France and loves spending the European summer in the beautiful city of Bordeaux. His appointment as Knight of Arts and Letters comes in recognition of his work and his special relationship with France, reflected in many of his books,” the Embassy said.

The Order of Arts and Letters is a French order established in 1957 and awarded to recognise significant contributions to the enrichment of the arts and literature in France and abroad.

South African citizens who have received the order include Johnny Clegg (1991), William Kentridge (2013), Gregory Maqoma (2017), Zanele Muholi (2017) and Jonathan “Zapiro” Shapiro (2019). – Source: <https://newstime.world>



SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT WINS TOP PRIZE AT THE SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Coenraad Heinz Torlage from the Stellenbosch Academy of Design and Photography was awarded Student Photographer of the Year for 2021, winning R500 000 worth of Sony photography equipment for his institution.

Produced by the World Photography Organisation, the internationally acclaimed Sony World Photography Awards are one of the most important fixtures on the photographic calendar. The awards are a global voice for photography and provide a vital insight into contemporary work today. For both established and emerging artists, the awards offer extensive exposure.

Now in its 14th year, the awards consist of four competitions: Professional (for photographers entering a body of work or portfolio), Open (for photographers entering a single image), Student (for academic institutions) and Youth (for 12 to 19 year-olds).

“The World Photography Organisation is delighted to announce the overall winners in the prestigious Sony World Photography Awards 2021. The Photographer of the Year title and accompanying US\$25 000 cash prize and a range of Sony’s digital imaging kit is awarded to the esteemed documentarian Craig Easton (United Kingdom) for his series *Bank Top*. Also announced are the 10 category winners alongside second and third place of the Professional competition as well as overall winners of the Open, Student and Youth competitions.”

Torlage was chosen for his series *Young Farmers*, created in response to the brief, *Our Time*, which asked students to depict the way they and their contemporaries see the world and how they plan to change it for the better.

In *Young Farmers*, Torlage, who grew up on a farm himself, set out to photograph the next generation of farmers as they face challenges concerning severe droughts, safety and debates around land ownership alongside their contributions towards a fairer and more equitable future of sustainability and food security.

Commenting on his win, Torlage says: “I have been through an experience that is almost impossible to describe. I often dreamt of winning and prayed that I could share my country and the amazing people in it with the world.”

“I believe in the young farmers of South Africa, which this country needs in terms of food sustainability and ecological awareness. Winning is a dream made possible by the amazing people that I photographed and everyone who helped and supported me. I believe in hard work, family and most of all, the grace of God. I am truly humbled that my images could even be considered for such a prestigious competition.” – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



KRUGER NATIONAL PARK APPOINTS FIRST FEMALE HEAD RANGER

Cathy Dreyer is the new Head Ranger at the Kruger National Park.



The Kruger National Park has appointed its first female Head Ranger, Cathy Dreyer, 43, who has an exemplary record in conservation management, law enforcement and people and strategic management competencies.

Dreyer – who starts her new position on 1 May – is currently the Conservation Manager at Addo Elephant National Park in the Eastern Cape, responsible for terrestrial and marine areas.

Before moving to Addo, she was based in the Kruger, contributing to the protection and conservation of black rhino in the Intensive Protection Zone.

She coordinated and participated in the implementation of aerial surveillance and was also instrumental in drawing up protection strategies and patrol tactics aimed at protecting black rhinos in the Kruger.

Before that, she was Conservation Manager at the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency for the Great Fish River Nature Reserve, home to one of the key black rhino populations in South Africa.

Dreyer’s appointment comes soon after the holding of a successful strategy session in March with stakeholders and employees on preparing a Rhino Implementation Plan aimed at arresting the decline of the rhino population within the park.

The Kruger’s Managing Executive, Gareth Coleman, congratulated Dreyer on her new appointment.

“We are looking forward to welcoming Cathy back. She brings with her a wealth of conservation management experience and in conserving rhinos in particular. She has proven herself as a dedicated conservationist and a law enforcement officer.” Dreyer expressed her joy at her appointment.

“I am incredibly humbled by this opportunity, particularly at a time when the Kruger National Park is vigorously and earnestly working on its turnaround plan,” she said. – Source: news@citizen.co.za

NASA NAMES RIDGE ON MARS AFTER JAPIE VAN ZYL

A piece of real estate on planet Mars has been named after a Namibian man, Jakob (Japie) van Zyl, who studied at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, obtaining an Honours degree in Electronic Engineering in 1979.

Van Zyl was the leader of the team that created the Ingenuity Mars Helicopter, which recently made history – becoming the first aircraft in history to make a powered, controlled flight on another planet.

Sadly, Van Zyl did not live to see this incredible achievement. The 64-year-old passed away in August 2020, after suffering a heart attack in California, where he lived.



He did at least see the launch, a month before he died, of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover, which carried Ingenuity to the red planet.

The 49cm-high solar-powered helicopter was deployed by Perseverance rover two weeks ago, and on 19 April 2021, became airborne at 12h33 Mars time (09h34 SA time). It achieved an altitude of 3 metres and maintained a stable hover for 30 seconds, said NASA.

This incredible feat was filmed and observed by Perseverance from a ridge nearby, which has been named Van Zyl Overlook, in honour of the exceptional electrical engineer.

In its announcement about Van Zyl Overlook last month, NASA described Van Zyl as being the team's longtime colleague, mentor, and leader at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Southern California.

"Van Zyl joined JPL in 1986 and served in crucial roles at the lab over a 33-year career, including as Director for the Astronomy and Physics Directorate, Associate Director for project formulation and strategy, and finally Director for the Solar System Exploration Directorate.

"As leader of solar system exploration at JPL, he oversaw successful operations of such NASA missions as Juno, Dawn and Cassini, the implementation of the Mars InSight lander and MarCO CubeSats, as well as ongoing development of Europa Clipper, Psyche and all of JPL's instruments and Ingenuity."

Although Van Zyl was an expat for over three decades, he regularly returned home and encouraged youngsters in Namibia and South Africa to become scientists.

SpaceX CEO – and former South African schoolboy – Elon Musk is determined to retire on Mars. He says he's confident that SpaceX will be able to fly humans to Mars by 2026. – Source: www.sapeople.com

SOUTH AFRICAN DIRECTOR WINS PRESTIGIOUS GLOBAL ANIMATION PRIZE

South African animated and directed series "The Snail and the Whale" has won another prestigious international award.

The Snail and the Whale, directed by Max Lang and South Africa's Daniel Snaddon, has won the Annie Award for Best Special production. The Annie Awards have been presented by the Los Angeles branch of the International Animated Film Association, ASIFA-Hollywood, each year since 1972 to recognise excellence in animation.

This year's awards were held as a virtual ceremony on Friday, 16 April.

Animated in Cape Town by Triggerfish and produced by Magic Light Pictures, *The Snail and the Whale* follows the amazing journey of a tiny snail who longs to see the world and hitches a ride on the tail of a huge humpback whale.

The 27-minute short film is a joyous, empowering story about the natural wonders of the world and discovering that, no matter how small you are, you really can make a difference.



Based on the picture book written in 2003 by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler (creators of the modern classic *The Gruffalo*), *The Snail and the Whale* was shortlisted for the Oscar and has won eight other international awards at the likes of the British Animation Awards, Cartoons on the Bay, New York International Children's Film Festival, The Venice TV Awards, and the BANFF Rockie's Awards.

Produced by Michael Rose and Martin Pope, *The Snail and the Whale* is a Magic Light Pictures production in association with Triggerfish Animation.

This is the second collaboration between Magic Light Pictures and Triggerfish to win an Annie, following on from the Oscar-nominated *Revoluting Rhymes*, on which Triggerfish also provided animation services. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com

SA'S ZOZI TUNZI STUNS AT THE 2021 LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS



South Africa's reigning Miss Universe, Zozibini Tunzi made a special appearance at the 2021 Latin American Music Awards.

The 2021 Latin American Music Awards saw South Africa's Zozibini Tunzi walk the red carpet and announce the 2021 Miss Universe event.

The awards, that took place on 15 April live from the BB&T Centre in Sunrise, Florida, saw South Africa's reigning Miss Universe in a sheer and sparkly Christian Cowan gown.

Zozi took to social media to say that she had a lot of fun at the award show.

She later took to the stage to announce that a new Miss Universe would be crowned on 16 May 2021 at the same venue. Of the Miss Universe event she also said that she was very excited.

"It's always so exciting for me to watch the show and it is finally here. I'm so excited for every contestants' journey and I wish them all the best of luck." – Source: www.thesouthafrican.com

SOUTH AFRICA'S GIZZELLE UYS WINS MISS ECO INTERNATIONAL TITLE FOR 2021

Gizzelle Uys made South Africa proud by winning the title of Miss Eco International 2021 and flying the flag high on the international stage.

Gizzelle, the reigning Miss Eco South Africa, flew the flag high in Egypt recently at the Miss Eco International pageant, where she walked away with the winning crown.

Miss Eco International is a pageant that celebrates women with a passion for saving the planet and making choices that are better for the environment. They focus on promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

"This competition focusses on the wellness of the mind, body and spirit of all the candidates that represent all the countries from all over the world." – Miss Eco International

The beauty competition consisted of 17 days in Egypt where the women engaged in various cultural activities all while preparing for the final event.

Gizzelle's win marks not only a first for South Africa but also a first for Africa as a whole. While the event takes place in Africa, there has never been a winner from the continent until now.

This is a wonderful achievement. Gizzelle has been so thankful for her win and all the support she has received leading up to it and to date. – Source: www.goodthingsguy.com



VELDSKOEN SHOES MAKES THE OLYMPIC TEAM

The South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) has named Veldskoен as the official off-field shoe of South African Olympians, for this year's games in Tokyo.

Veldskoен Shoes was started because of a conversation between Nick Dreyer and Ross Zondagh about the controversial outfits that were worn by the South African team at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio.

“Unimpressed with the kit the SA athletes wore to the opening ceremony, our founders began imagining what they could have worn that would have better represented South Africa. The answer they came up with was a pair of traditional Vellies but injected with a pop of colour. Our signature look today.

“Well, the story has come full circle. Veldskoен has been chosen as the official off-field shoe for South African athletes at this year's Olympic Games in Tokyo. We've been pinching ourselves all day. What a dream come true!”



Nick and Ross enlisted the skills and imagination of an old school friend, and digital marketing expert, Nic Latouf. And soon the shoes were stepping out across South Africa ... and the world! The company says that “in 2019, Veldskoен gained the attention of international celebrity investors Marc Cuban and Ashton Kutcher, and a United States leg of the business was started. Veldskoен is currently selling in 28 countries, with independent online stores and also large retail partners like Takealot and Outdoor Warehouse.”

SASCOC President, Barry Hendricks, announced Veldskoен Shoes as one of its sponsors for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games on Wednesday, 14 April 2021, 100 days before the games commence in Japan on 23 July.

He said: “This sponsorship will ensure that our country's Olympians and Paralympians will showcase Veldskoен as a local brand internationally thereby exhibiting our national pride and sharing in the spirit of being South Africans. Thank you for your commitment and assistance to Team South Africa.”

In less than five years, Veldskoен has grown from a small Internet start-up to a global brand ... and perhaps after the Olympics and Paralympics 2021, South Africa's iconic veldskoен shoes will be as familiar to the world as the country's vuvuzela has been since the Football World Cup in 2010.

As Ross says: It's a “proud moment for local businesses. This is our opportunity to share the beautiful, vibrant, resilient, light-hearted South African-ness with the world! And it's fun. It's seriously fun.” – www.sapeople.com

JAY-Z'S ROC NATION SIGN FORMER SPRINGBOK SBU NKOSI



Former Springbok and Sharks back Sbu Nkosi has become the latest South African sportsman to join the renowned sports agency, Roc Nation.

Sbu Nkosi, who played 11 Tests for the Springboks, joins Siya Kolisi, Cheslin Kolbe and “Beast” Mtawarira on the books of the agency, which was started by rapper Jay-Z.

Roc Nation Sports International President, Michael Yormark said: “Sbu Nkosi is an exciting and talented rugby player with a bright future ahead. Based on his career aspirations and ambitions, we believe Roc Nation Sports will be the perfect partner to help him achieve his goals and objectives both on and off the field.

“We are delighted and honoured to welcome him to the family and look forward to a successful partnership.” – Source: www.thesouthafrican.com



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